

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Ag 84 Pro #305

THE CORN REFERENDUM

All farmers who grew corn this year in the 894 counties which have been designated as commercial corn-producing counties for 1957 are eligible to vote in an important referendum on Tuesday, December 11.

The referendum will determine the corn program which is to be available in commercial counties for the 1957 and later crops.

The choice will be between a "Soil Bank corn base acreage" program, such as was used this year, or the "acreage allotment" provisions which were in effect before 1956. If two-thirds or more of the farmers who vote favor base acreages, they will be used; if more than one-third favor acreage allotments, they will be in effect.

If the corn base acreage program is approved:

- • • The "base acreage for commercial counties will be 51 million acres for each year the program is in effect (authorized through 1959). There will be no corn acreage allotments.
- • • The price support level will be determined by the Secretary of Agriculture each year, in accordance with general directives in the controlling legislation. For 1957, the support level will be an average of \$1.31 a bushel.
- • • Farmers will qualify for price support by staying within their share of the "national corn base acreage", and also taking part in the Soil Bank program.

If the acreage allotment program is approved:

- • • An "acreage allotment" for the commercial counties will be determined each year in accordance with legislative provisions. For 1957, the total acreage allotment is 37,288,889 acres.
- • • Price support levels will be within a range of 75 to 90 percent of parity, in accordance with the supply situation. For 1957, the average support level will be \$1.36 a bushel.

• • • Farmers will qualify for price support by complying with their individual farm corn allotments.

Producers in commercial counties will be eligible to take part in the Acreage Reserve and Conservation Reserve programs of the Soil Bank under either the "corn base acreage" or the "acreage allotment" program.

In order to put land into the corn Acreage Reserve, they will be required to produce corn on fewer acres than their "base" or "allotment", whichever is in effect.

The national corn allotment, and individual farm shares of this allotment, have had to be cut sharply in recent years as supplies have built up. There is no "minimum" for corn allotments.

Many farmers have found that it was not practicable for them to comply with their reduced corn allotments in order to qualify for price support. They would face the same problem in reducing below allotments to take part in the corn Acreage Reserve program.

The December 11 referendum gives producers a chance to vote on an alternate program—with the larger "base acreages", 51 million acres, and price supports as determined each year—as compared with the smaller "allotments", 37.3 million acres, and price supports in the 75 to 90 percent of parity range.

As a special measure to help stabilize farm income when Soil Bank legislation was delayed this year, price support was made available in commercial counties for 1956 corn which was not produced in compliance with acreage allotment or Soil Bank provisions. On the basis of presently known facts in the general situation, the Department of Agriculture has no plans to offer such "non-compliance" corn price supports for 1957 production.

How the "Base Acreage" Program Would Operate

1. There will be 51 million acres in the Soil Bank corn base acreage each year through 1959.

2. The "national" corn base acreage will be apportioned to individual farms by the same method used to determine farm corn acreage allotments.
3. Price support will be determined by the Secretary of Agriculture each year, as directed by legislation, at such levels as "will assist producers in marketing corn in the normal channels of trade but not encourage uneconomic production of corn". For 1957, the support level has been set at an average of \$1.31 a bushel.
4. To be eligible for corn price support, producers must not exceed the farm corn base acreage. They must also take part in the Soil Bank in one of the following ways:
 - (a) Putting at least 15 percent of the farm corn base acreage in the Acreage Reserve for corn, under annual contracts.
 - (b) Producing up to the full farm corn base acreage, but putting an acreage of general cropland equal to at least 15 percent of this base acreage in the Conservation Reserve program, under contracts which may run for 3, 5, or 10 years.
 - (c) Electing to put some land in the Soil Bank Acreage Reserve for corn, and some in the Conservation Reserve. The total would have to equal at least 15 percent of the farm corn base acreage.

How the "Acreage Allotment" Program Would Work

1. The "national" acreage allotment for commercial counties will be determined each year in accordance with legislative provisions. For 1957, the allotment for the 894 commercial counties will be 37,288,889 acres, if the allotment program is in effect.
2. Individual farm corn acreage allotments will be determined by the same method used in past years.

3. Price support for eligible producers will be within a range of from 75 to 90 percent of parity, depending on the supply situation. For 1957, the support has been set at a national average of \$1.36 per bushel.
4. To be eligible for corn price support, producers must not exceed their farm corn allotments.

Soil Bank Participation

Any farmer with a corn allotment or Soil Bank corn base acreage for his farm can take part in the Acreage Reserve program for corn. Nearly all farmers can take part in the Conservation Reserve program.

Production history is protected under the Soil Bank programs. Any land put into the Acreage Reserve for corn, and any land diverted from corn production into the Conservation Reserve, will be considered as having been planted to corn in establishing future corn allotments or corn base acreages.

To be eligible for any payments under the Soil Bank, a producer must not exceed a corn base acreage or any acreage allotment on his farm.

Where to Get Information

County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committees (ASC) will give corn producers notice of polling places and the hours when the polls will be open on December 11. Farmers will also receive notice of their individual base acreages and allotments before the referendum.

Additional information about the corn referendum is available at the County ASC offices or from County Agricultural Agents of the Extension Service.

**THE DECEMBER 11 CORN REFERENDUM
WILL DETERMINE THE CORN PROGRAM FOR
1957 AND LATER YEARS. BE SURE TO VOTE.**

